

among the most visible public servants and risk their lives to protect the community.

I offer my congratulations on this milestone and thank Bentonville Police Chief Jon Simpson and the officers and staff who serve and protect the citizens of Bentonville for their service to the community. They have made Bentonville one of the safest communities in Arkansas and in the United States.●

TRIBUTE TO AL RANKINS, SENIOR

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Al Rankins, Sr., of Greenville, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 80th president of the Delta Council. Since its founding in 1935, this important organization has grown into a widely respected economic development collaborative representing the business, professional, and agricultural interests of the Mississippi Delta region. I am grateful to Delta Council for its continuous role in meeting the economic and quality of life challenges in this unique part of our country.

Al Rankins' tenure as council president began in May 2015, and he has been a notably strong advocate for the Delta Council's role in water resources development. His effective leadership on flood control issues affecting the alluvial floodplain has served the area well. His former service as a local public official has provided him a unique perspective on the needs of proper access to healthcare, workforce readiness, educational progress, and important matters related to transportation infrastructure in this rural, predominantly agricultural region.

A native of Washington County, MS, Mr. Rankins graduated from Simmons High School in Hollandale, MS, and later received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Mississippi Valley State University. Prior to his contributions as president of Delta Council, Mr. Rankins served his community as a law enforcement officer, an elected county official, past president of 100 Black Men of the Mississippi Delta, and active participant in the local Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Rankins' dedication to the future of the delta and all of those who live there is laudable. I am pleased to join the people of my State in commending Al Rankins and sharing our appreciation with his wife, Mary, and their children, CeCelia, Alfred, Jr., Ansel, and Anthony, as the 81st annual meeting of the Delta Council organizational membership convenes.●

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, IRCO, a nonprofit organiza-

tion that serves the many immigrant and refugee communities that come to Oregon seeking a new and better life.

Since its founding in 1976, IRCO has been helping individuals and families who come to the United States with few resources and little support. Established by refugees, for refugees, the organization has a long track record of providing vital housing, healthcare, and employment services. IRCO staff offer peer-to-peer assistance and culturally specific services through programs like the Asian Family Center and Africa House. IRCO served more than 28,000 people in 2015 alone, helping these new Oregonians integrate into communities across our State while maintaining an important connection to their rich heritage and traditions.

Beyond offering immediate support for those starting a life in the United States, IRCO has also become an advocacy arm for Oregon's immigrants and refugees. Its leadership development programs have graduated many individuals who have worked with key decisionmakers to pursue change in Oregon and beyond.

As many in this Chamber know, I am the son of immigrants who fled Nazi Germany to avoid persecution. The act of helping immigrants and refugees resettle, to become contributing Americans, is close to my heart. I know firsthand how this country thrives by harnessing the ideas, energy, and hard work of those who come to our shores—in fact, I stand here today as the proof. That is why I will continue to do what I can to support organizations, like IRCO, working day-in and day-out to ensure everyone gets a fair shot at success.

I conclude by congratulating IRCO on 40 years of tremendous service and by wishing all of its staff, volunteers, and partners continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 32. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target

extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes.

S. 125. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

S. 2755. An act to provide Capitol-flown flags to the immediate family of firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of rescue squads or ambulance crews, and public safety officers who are killed in the line of duty.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2137. An act to ensure Federal law enforcement officers remain able to ensure their own safety, and the safety of their families, during a covered furlough.

H.R. 3209. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the disclosure of certain tax return information for the purpose of missing or exploited children investigations.

H.R. 4063. An act to improve the use by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4957. An act to designate the Federal building located at 99 New York Avenue, N.E., in the District of Columbia as the "Ariel Rios Federal Building".

H.R. 4985. An act to amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to protect classified information in Federal court challenges.

H.R. 5048. An act to require a study by the Comptroller General of the United States on Good Samaritan laws that pertain to treatment of opioid overdoses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5052. An act to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3209. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the disclosure of certain tax return information for the purpose of missing or exploited children investigations; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4063. An act to improve the use by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of opioids in treating veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4985. An act to amend the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act to protect classified information in Federal court challenges; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5048. An act to require a study by the Comptroller General of the United States on Good Samaritan laws that pertain to treatment of opioid overdoses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5052. An act to direct the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs that provide grants for the primary purpose of providing assistance in addressing problems pertaining to opioid abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.